

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:DHERNST:PP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SZ, PK

SUBJECT: UNFDAC PAKISTAN PROGRAM

1. DURING RECENT GENEVA CONSULTATIONS OF DAVID ERNST, DEPUTY SENIOR ADVISER FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH UNITED NATIONS DRUG AGENCY OFFICIALS, DR. STEN MARTENS, THEN DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF A PROJECT FOR AN ALKALOIDS FACTORY TO PROCESS NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS IN THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN. IN MARTEN'S VIEW, SHOULD PAKISTAN HAVE SUCH INTENTION, IT WOULD NEGATE THE BASIS ON WHICH UNFDAC HAD PLANNED ITS \$3

MILLION BUNER AREA MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM.

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2. ERNST ADVISED MARTENS THAT ON SEPTEMBER 23 HE HAD

QUERIED PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD CHAIRMAN RAOUF ALI ABOUT THE REPORTED PROJECT, AND THAT ALI HAD EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS: WITHOUT ANY PRIOR REFERENCE TO THE PNCB, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE HAD ENGAGED A FIRM TO MAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SUCH A PROJECT. UPON SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNING OF IT, THE PNCB HAD

INFORMED THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY OF PAKISTAN OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AGREEMENT TO ANY EXPORT OF PRODUCT FROM SUCH A FACILITY AND, FURTHERMORE, THE PNCB ITSELF WOULD NOT APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT. ALI FURTHER RELATED HE TOLD THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IT WOULD ONLY BE YEARS HENCE, AFTER PAKISTAN MIGHT HAVE EXHIBITED TO THE WORLD IT HAD THE CAPABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO CONTROL PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS RAW MATERIALS THAT THE INCB WOULD EVEN CONSIDER EXTENDING ITS APPROVAL. THEREFORE, HE SAID, HE TOLD THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PUT THE IDEA ASIDE FOR FIVE OR TEN YEARS.

3. THIS ACCOUNT APPEARED TO ALLAY DR. MARTEN'S CONCERNS TO SOME EXTENT. OTHER UN DRUG AGENCY STAFF PRESENT (DAVIES, MICUTA) EMPHASIZED THAT AS A PART OF THE BUNER PROJECT A UNITED NATIONS DRUG CONTROL ADVISER WOULD BE STATIONED IN PAKISTAN AND THUS BE IN A POSITION TO WORK TO ASSURE THAT THE ALKALOID PLANT IDEA WAS KEPT SHELVED. DAVIES INDICATED RAOUF ALI WAS EXPECTED IN GENEVA IN OCTOBER TO SIGN THE UNFDAC-PAKISTAN PROJECT AND THAT FURTHER ASSURANCES WOULD BE SOUGHT FROM HIM THEN. ALL AGREED THE MATTER WOULD NEED TO BE HANDLED CAREFULLY, AND WITH DUE REGARD TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, IN ORDER THAT THE BUNER PROJECT GO FORWARD AND THERE BE NO WEAKENING BUT RATHER A STRENGTHENING IN THE EXTENT OF THE PAKISTANI COMMITMENT TOWARDS NARCOTICS CONTROL. KISSINGER

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